

Bozak, Harry Gregory

Private

**Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
of Canada**

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

H 18546



*Motto: : ULLAMH
(Scots for "ready")*



Harry Gregory Bozak was born on January 21, 1925, in Winnipeg, Manitoba (MB). He was the youngest of four children from John Bozak's marriage (1895-1967) to Anna Wojzniewicz (1902-1965). Both came from what is now Ukraine. They emigrated to Canada in 1903/1904 and married on April 17, 1918 in Winnipeg (MB). They were buried at the Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg (MB).



Brookside Cemetery, Winnipeg (MB).

Their children, all born in Winnipeg (MB), were:

- Olga (1918-2007), married to Peter Adamanchuk (1910-2005)
- Sophie (1920-1988), married to Harry Gregory Medo (1916-1983)
- Mary (1922-1985), married to Samuel (Sam) Fedun (1919-1995)
- Harry (1925-1945), unmarried

The family were members of the Greek Catholic Church.

At 16, Harry left primary school (Grade IX) and, after various small jobs, started working as a machinist at McLean's Machinery Co. in Winnipeg (MB). He wanted to take up this profession again after the war.

After about one year, he enlisted in the army at age 18 on December 20, 1943, in Winnipeg (MB).

His medical certificate stated that he was of slim build and neatly dressed. His height was 5' 8½", he weighed 125 lbs, and he had brown eyes and a scar on his left ring finger. He also wore glasses for three years.

His interests included roller skating, movies, dancing, and bowling, and he had no interest in reading. He also spoke Ukrainian, in addition to English.

Harry was assigned to the Canadian Armored Reinforcement Unit (CARU) and trained as a Gunner at Camp Shilo (MB).

On July 20, 1944, he embarked in Halifax (NS) for transport to Liverpool, England, where he arrived a week later. He was added as a Private to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (R.C.I.C.), also called the Camerons. A few weeks later, on September 1, 1944, the Camerons crossed the Channel and arrived in France, from where they fought through Belgium to the Achterhoek in the Netherlands.

On September 9, the Camerons occupied the town of De Panne on the Belgian coast and chased away the scattered pockets of German resistance there.

The next day, the unit continued the advance under fire from heavy machine guns, mortars, anti-aircraft guns, and heavy coastal guns. Heavy fighting was with the German 1055th Grenadier Regiment near Bray-Dunes, just south of De Panne.

The Camerons had some rest until September 27 and arrived at the Antwerp - Turnhout Canal.

At the beginning of October, the Camerons were near Brasschaet, after which they moved towards Putte, just southeast of Antwerp.

On October 24, the Camerons attacked Woensdrecht, where they encountered heavy resistance. The next day, by 11 p.m., the area had been cleared of the enemy, and the Black Watch of Canada relieved the battalion.

Following the intense battles, relative peace descended upon the Camerons. They were moved to the Maas, near Mook, to recuperate and regroup, a welcome respite for the weary soldiers.

It is interesting to know that on the night of December 26, near Nijmegen, the battalion downed an enemy aircraft and captured four of the crew members.

On February 17, the Camerons crossed the border into Nazi Germany and took up positions at Bedburg.

During Operation Blockbuster, a sequel to Operation Veritable, various battles took place in the Hochwald, near Kalkar, Xanten, and Rindern, all located in Germany. Ten days later, on March 18, the Camerons prepared to cross the Rhine.

At the end of March, the Camerons were near Megchelen, where the liberation of eastern Netherlands began. However, this did not happen without a hitch. The British troops present fought fiercely for a day and a night with the German 7th Fallschirmjäger Regiment. Of the 159 houses in Megchelen on March 28, only four stood undamaged on the evening of March 29.



Sherman Tank in Megchelen.

A day later, the Camerons who arrived fought in Netterden with the remaining Germans, during which battle Harry was killed, 20 years old.

On April 3, he was temporarily buried on the arable land of farmer Antoon Friesen near the Uilenweg in Megchelen (Map route MR065618).



Temporary cemetery near Megchelen. Photo Maarten Koudijs.

His father was informed of his son's death by a letter signed by Major-General A.E. Walford on April 10, 1945.

10th April, 1945.

Mr. John Bozak,
873 Magnus Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Mr. Bozak:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of your son, H18546 Private Harry Gregory Bozak, who gave his life in the Service of his Country in the Western European Theatre of War on the 30th day of March, 1945.

From official information we have received, your son was killed in action against the enemy. You may be assured that any additional information received will be communicated to you without delay.

The Minister of National Defence and the Members of the Army Council have asked me to express to you and your family their sincere sympathy in your bereavement.

We pay tribute to the sacrifice he so bravely made.

Yours sincerely,

A. E. WALFORD
Major-General
Adjutant-General

APR 10 1945
(A.E. Walford),
Major-General,
Adjutant-General.

*mem X - mother
17-4-45
[Signature]*

Harry was reburied on October 15, 1945, at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek. He rests in grave reference **XIX. D. 11**. This was confirmed to his father on July 11, 1946. Colonel C.L. Laurin, the Director of Records, signed the letter.



The inscription on his gravestone reads:

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF OUR BELOVED SON.
MAY HE REST
IN HEAVENLY PEACE.

Harry's will named his father and mother as beneficiaries. Possessions that his father certainly wanted back were: a fountain pen, money, a wristwatch, and a 7th Loan Victory bond of CAD 50 in the name of Anna Bozak.

Harry also owned a leather wallet, five souvenir coins, three minor keys, and various photos.



Life story: Henk Mostert, Research Team Faces To Graves.

Consulted sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library and Archives Canada
- Find a Grave
- Maarten Koudijs
- geotarget.com

* If you have a photo of this soldier or additional information, please contact info@facestograves.nl

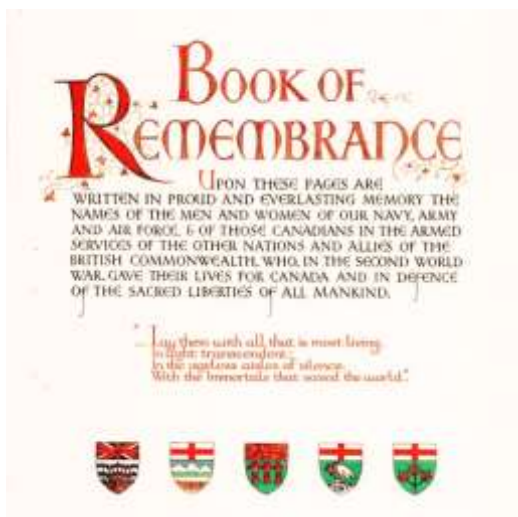
Bozak Lake, north of North and South Knife Lakes (MB), is named after Harry in 1974.

Harry is commemorated on a monument in Netterden and Gendringen, Gelderland,



Warmonument in Gendringen. Photo Evie Koolenbrander (OWNV).

and in the Second World War Book of Remembrance.



In Ottawa (ON), a page of the eight commemorative books is turned every day at 11 a.m.

These books, which contain more than 120,000 names of Canadians who gave their lives in the service of their country, serve as a daily reminder of the sacrifices made during the war.

Harry Gregory Bozak is one of them and is mentioned on page 498.



Pte Boyle, James William N Shore R
 Pte Bozak, Harry Gregory Cameron of C
 LAC Bracey, Thomas Stafford Benedict RCAF
 Ch Sto Bradden, James Alexander RCN
 P/O Bradley, Allen George RCAF
 P/O Bradley, Frank William RCAF
 P/O Bradley, Irvine Clifford RCAF
 Gnr Bradley, John RCA
 F/O Bradley, William Stanley RCAF
 Cpl Bradshaw, George Essex Scot
 Gdsm Brady, Albert Edward GGFG
 WO1 Brady, Lawrence Edward Joseph RCAF
 Pte Brady, Sidney Edward RHC
 P/O Brambleby, James Edwin RCAF
 Cpl Brampton, Mervin Lake Sup R
 Pte Bramwell, John Robertson VGC
 Pte Branch, Frederic Walter RCOC
 Pte Branconnier, René Rde Chaud
 F/L Brand, Lorne William RCAF
 Pte Brandon, Oliver Crocker Essex Scot
 Pte Brannen, Herbert Malcolm Nth NS Highrs
 Pte Branscomb, John C Scot R
 Sgt Branscombe, David Clifford RCE
 P/O Branston, Leonard Frank RCAF
 L Cpl Bray, Robert Joseph RC Sigs
 P/O Bredin, Mark Webster RCAF
 Pte Breen, Bertrand RCOC
 F/O Brier, Harry Patrick RCAF
 Pte Brennan, Austin James Hast & PER
 Gnr Brennan, Fred RCA
 F/O Brennan, Frederick Vincent RCAF
 P/O Brennan, Lawrence William RCAF
 Sgt Brennan, Ralph DeWitt A & SH of C
 Pte Brenton, Henry CFC
 F/O Brenton, Kenneth Stickney RCAF
 Lt Breton, George Stanley CGG
 Rfn Bressette, Ross Bernard Regina Rif
 Pte Breton, Fernand Rde Mais
 P/O Brett, Alfred George RCAF
 SBA Brewer, Gordon Samuel RCNVR
 F/S Brewer, Morley Junion RCAF
 Pte Brezden, Walter Gen List
 Pte Brezino, Joe RHLI
 Tpr Brian, John Crawford RCAC

Pte Brick, Robert Edward Peter L Edmn R
 Rfn Bridal, Jack Wesley RWpg Rif
 F/S Bridger, Roger Thomas RCAF
 Tpr Bridges, John Raymond Sher Fus R
 F/O Bridgman, William Frederick RCAF
 F/O Bridgen, Donald Andrew RCAF
 Lt(NS) Briggs, Margaret Agnes RCAMC
 Pte Briggs, Thomas Albert Paul Seaforth of C
 Pte Brisson, John Gordon Alq R
 Wren Wtr Britton, Dorothy Florence WRCNS
 Cpl Broadbent, James Carson RCAF
 Maj Brochu, Armand Joseph Fus MR
 F/S Brock, Ronald Arthur RCAF
 Tpr Brockbank, John Cecil GGHG
 F/L Brodie, Charles Milne RCAF
 F/O Brodie, Warren Argo RCAF
 Tpr Brooker, Alexander Arthur BCD
 L Cpl Brooks, Melvin Ronald RWpg Rif
 Pte Brooks, Walter James SD & GH Highrs
 F/O Brooks, Wilfred Henry RCAF
 Pte Broome, William Harold A & SH of C
 Pte Brosseau, Oscar VGC
 Sgt Broten, Kenneth Owen RWpg Rif
 Sgt Brott, Harry Clarke Hast & PER
 Pte Brough, Leonard Gordon SD & G Highrs
 Lt Brouillet, Gilles Rde Mais
 Spr Brown, Albert RCE
 Pte Brown, Bruce Arthur RCIC
 Pte Brown, Calvin John C Scot R
 F/S Brown, Douglas Harold RCAF
 Pte Brown, Edward Hector PPCLI
 Pte Brown, Ernest McPherson CB Highrs
 F/L Brown, Eugene Deverle RCAF
 P/O Brown, Francis Norman RCAF
 L Cpl Brown, Frederick John RCIC
 Sigmn Brown, Gordon Allan RC Sigs
 Spr Brown, Gordon Glen RCE
 Pte Brown, Gordon Stewart Alq R
 F/O Brown, Harold Allan RCAF
 Pte Brown, Herbert Pickel Hast & PER
 Tpr Brown, Herbert William 4 PLDG

Second World War Book of Remembrance.